

# California MEDICINE

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## EDITORIAL

### 1963 Annual Session

THE CLOSING DAYS of March saw another Annual Session of the California Medical Association, the ninety-second such meeting in the 107-year history of the Association.

A brief summary of the meeting can easily be stated in two words—most successful.

Attendance by physicians and guests was somewhat lower than in the past few years but still presented a fairly sizable total, about 2,500 physicians and about the same number of exhibitors, family members and guests. The technical exhibits were of top quality and in the usual large number. Scientific exhibits were dispensed with this year because of the paucity of member-oriented study and research.

Scientifically, the meeting produced an excellent program, a tribute to the Committee on Scientific Work and its section officers. Five outstanding guest speakers appeared on the program, together with a panel of basic science professors from northern medical schools. One of the distinguished guest speakers has expressed the opinion that this is the finest state scientific meeting he has ever encountered in a considerable experience as an out-of-town expert.

On the business side, the House of Delegates had 99 resolutions to consider, along with a number of proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws. Reference committees of the House were augmented this year by adding two additional members to each. Through this and other means the business of the House was expedited and all delegates were assured ample opportunity to review committee recommendations in advance of their presentation for action.

A salient of the meeting was the adoption of amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws under which the new Scientific Board of the California Medical Association will function.

New Bylaw provisions approved a year earlier aided the House immeasurably by requiring the submittal of resolutions in advance of the meeting.

Component societies took this new requirement into consideration and in most instances were prompt in filing those resolutions adopted in caucus. There remained a number of resolutions proposed by individual delegates, not accepted by component society caucuses but submitted by the individuals. Some of these apparently prompted a resolution which would have called for restricting all business of the House of Delegates to those subjects enumerated as objects of the C.M.A. in its Constitution. This proposal drew prolonged and spirited debate on the floor but was defeated in the interests of maintaining freedom of speech. Regardless of this defeat, the so-called "gag rule" resolution brought squarely before the House of Delegates the question of whether or not the members of that body should spend their time discussing subjects as far afield of medical practice as department store service charges on charge accounts or the contingent fees of attorneys.

From both the scientific and business angles, the 1963 Annual Session must be considered a great success. To the officers of the Association, to the Speaker and Vice-Speaker of the House of Delegates, and to the many staff members who have continually worked to improve the mechanics of presenting a meeting of this character and size, we owe a vote of thanks. Their efforts have been most fruitful and should not remain unnoticed.

### The Voice of the Physician

Both for the good advice it has for all the members of the California Medical Association and the view it gives of the leadership of our newest component society, the President's Message from the February issue of the Forty First Medical Society's official journal is reprinted this month in *California Medicine*, page 295.

The journal that gave us permission to reprint is *The California Clinician*. It is an attractive one. The name of the president whose message it is, is Milton S. Futterman, M.D. He talks sense.